

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 JUSE-00 L-03 OIC-02 SCCT-01 SY-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 AID-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS CA UN

SUBJECT: GOC WISH TO POSTPONE UN CRIME PREVENTION CONFERENCE

1. IN STATEMENT TO COMMONS JULY 21, SECSTATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MACEACHEN ANNOUNCED THAT GOC DID NOT WISH TO PROCEED WITH THE FIFTH UN CONGRESS ON PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS THIS YEAR. REFERRING TO HIS RECENT TALKS WITH UNSECGEN IN NEW YORK, MACEACHEN INDICATED THAT HE HAD "SOUGHT THE SECGENS COOPERATION IN OBTAINING A POSTPONEMENT OF THE CONGRESS" AND THAT THE SECGEN "HAS UNDERTAKEN TO STUDY THE SITUATION IN ORDER TO CLARIFY HIS POSITION." MACEACHEN SAID THAT IN GOC VIEW "THIS CONGRESS CANNOT BE HELD SUCCESSFULLY ANYWHERE THIS YEAR."

2. MACEACHEN MENTIONED AS GENERAL RATIONALE FOR GOC DECISION THE "STEADY DETERIORATION OF THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH INTER-NATIONAL CONFERENCES ARE HELD" AND POINTED TO EXCESSIVE CONFRONTATION ON ISSUES THAT WERE NOT RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CONFERENCES, SUGGESTING THAT THERE MAY BE A PLACE FOR POLITICAL FACTORS EVEN IN TECHNICAL CONFERENCES. HE SUBMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEY MUST "MEET SOME TEST OF RELEVANCE, AND IN RECENT UNCLASSIFIED

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UN CONFERENCES THIS HAS CLEARLY NOT BEEN THE CASE."

3. MACEACHEN MENTIONED THAT ONE POLITICAL ISSUE, I.E. ADMISSION AS OBSERVERS FOR THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO), HAD BECOME A DIVISIVE ISSUE IN CANADA. HE ADDED THAT THIS PLO QUESTION HAD RISK OF PUBLIC DISORDER IN CANADA. BUT HE ASSERTED THAT MORE GENERAL REASONS FOR POSTPONEMENT REQUEST WERE "INEVITABLE INTRUSION OF UNRELATED POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS" AND THE RE-ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SPREAD OF BITTERNESS INTO CANADA AND THE CONGRESS. FINALLY, MACEACHEN MENTIONED THAT THE CONGRESS' SCHEDULE WOULD OVERLAP WITH SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THAT ATMOSPHERICS OF ONE COULD AFFECT THE OTHER.

4. MACEACHEN'S STATEMENT EMPHASIZED POSTPONEMENT RATHER THAN WITHDRAWAL OF INVITATION AND MACEACHEN NOTED THAT POSSIBLE PERIOD OF POSTPONEMENT COULD ALLOW FOR REDUCTION OF TENSIONS PARTICULARLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HE ASSERTED THAT BY POSTPONEMENT REQUEST CANADA "IS NOT SHIRKING ITS RESPONSIBILITIES BUT ACTUALLY TAKING ON NEW ONES." IN THIS CONNECTION, HE CITED CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN NEXT SESSION OF UNGA AND PROPOSED GOC CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INTERESTED COUNTRIES ON GROUND RULES FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS IN UN CONTEXT. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO ACCEPT INVITATIONS TO VISIT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN ORDER TO SOLICIT THEIR VIEWS ON DIFFICULTIES RELATED TO CRIME PREVENTION CONGRESS AND MORE GENERAL UN MATTERS.

5. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND ITS INFLUENCE ON POSTPONEMENT REQUEST, MACEACHEN STATED GOC POSITION ON POSSIBLE ATTEMPTS TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL FROM UNGA. HE STATED, "FURTHERMORE, THE NEXT GA OF THE UN WILL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO AFFIRM THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIVERSALITY, AS A FULFILLMENT OF WHAT OUGHT TO BE A BASIC AIM OF THE UN. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE WILL RESIST ANY ATTEMPT TO EXCLUDE ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GA."

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YM MACEACHEN SAID HE HAD AGREED WITH SECGEN TO CONSULT FURTHER ON POSTPONEMENT REQUEST AND THAT HE INTENDED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE SECGEN LATER THIS WEEK.

7. EMBASSY COMMENTS ON MACEACHEN STATEMENT FOLLOW SEPTEL.
JOHNSON

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